



*A Ceremony in Memory of  
John R. La Montagne, Ph.D.  
(1943 – 2004)*

A Ceremony in Memory of  
The Former Deputy Director of the  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

**John R. La Montagne, Ph.D.**  
**(1943 – 2004)**

Tuesday, November 30, 2004  
3:00 p.m.

Natcher Conference Center Auditorium  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, MD

## Ceremony Program

Welcoming Remarks.....	Dr. Anthony S. Fauci
Presentation of the Colors.....	Public Health Service Honor Corps
National Anthem.....	Public Health Service Ensemble
Prayer .....	Dr. O. Ray Fitzgerald
Remarks.....	Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni
Remarks.....	Hon. Tommy G. Thompson
America the Beautiful.....	Public Health Service Ensemble
Remarks.....	Dr. George Curlin
Yellow Rose of Texas .....	Public Health Service Ensemble
Eulogy.....	Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

In a career spanning three decades, John R. La Montagne, Ph.D., renowned for his professional skills and personal warmth, exercised wisdom, patience, and unfailing generosity to improve the health of millions of people worldwide. Dr. La Montagne, former deputy director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), died unexpectedly in Mexico City on November 2, 2004, en route to a conference of the Pan American Health Organization. He was 61 years old.

Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, parent agency of NIAID, called Dr. La Montagne “a true public health hero whose leadership, especially in the realm of infectious diseases, left the world a healthier place.”

Born in Mexico City on January 1, 1943, Dr. La Montagne received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in microbiology from the University of Texas at Austin. He earned his Ph.D. from Tulane University in 1971. He joined NIAID in 1976 as the Institute’s first influenza program officer. Influenza was the subject of an editorial co-authored by Dr. La Montagne and NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., and published online by *The New England Journal of Medicine* in the week of his death.

In 1986 Dr. La Montagne became the first Director of the NIAID extramural AIDS Program. In 1987 he was appointed Director of the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Program, which became a division in 1988. Dr. La Montagne was named NIAID Deputy Director in February 1998. In that year, he developed the Institute’s strategic plan for new vaccines for childhood diarrhea and pneumonia.

Dr. Fauci mourned the untimely passing of Dr. La Montagne, noting that “he was a gifted leader and prescient thinker concerned with emerging infectious diseases and global public health long before these were fashionable.”

Dr. La Montagne worked indefatigably to fight two of the world's major killers, TB and malaria. He helped create and served on the board of directors of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development. He also helped establish the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria, an international collaborative effort involving research, control, and development agencies.

Dr. Fauci recalled his decades-long friendship and professional collaboration with Dr. La Montagne. "His wit, even-handedness, and kindness made him a friend to all who knew him, from world health leaders to the cleaning lady in his office with whom he spoke Spanish every morning," said Fauci.

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., National Institutes of Health Director, commented, "John La Montagne devoted his life to improving the health of children and adults here and abroad. His leadership and counsel have been invaluable in NIH research efforts to fight emerging and reemerging diseases, including biodefense activities."

Among the honors Dr. La Montagne received were the PHS Special Recognition Award for leadership in childhood vaccine research programs; the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award for his work in infectious diseases research of global health relevance; the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for leadership in pertussis vaccine trials; and, most recently, the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for design and implementation of critically important biodefense strategies.

Dr. La Montagne is survived by his wife, Mary Elaine Elliot La Montagne, two brothers, and a sister.

*Memorial gifts may be made to The John R. La Montagne Fellowship in International Medicine. The purpose of the fellowship is to fund scientific research in the areas to which Dr. La Montagne dedicated his career. Contributions should be mailed to: NIAID, 31 Center Drive MSC 2520, Building 31, Room 7A03, Bethesda, MD 20892.*

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services